

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention is directed to aromatic sulfone hydroxamates (also known as “aromatic sulfone hydroxamic acids”) and salts thereof that, *inter alia*, inhibit matrix metalloproteinase (also known as “matrix metalloprotease” or “MMP”) activity and/or
5 aggrecanase activity. This invention also is directed to a prevention or treatment method that comprises administering such a compound or salt in an MMP-inhibiting and/or aggrecanase-inhibiting effective amount to an animal, particularly a mammal having (or
10 activity.